



Speech By
Hon. Scott Stewart

MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE

Record of Proceedings, 23 August 2023


APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Transport and Resources Committee, Report

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (12.08 pm): I welcome the tabling of the Transport and Resources Committee report into the proposed budget appropriations for 2023-24 and acknowledge the committee's recommendations that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the budget bills, be agreed to without amendment. I am disappointed in what the opposition has said in its statement of reservation, because we have addressed all of the questions put forward with relevant answers.

I am proud of the success of the resources industry and the confidence the world has in it moving forward, particularly our critical minerals sector. There is huge interest in critical minerals in the North West Minerals Province and also in our world-class steelmaking coal. We have seen this with the global interest in the sales process for BHP's Central Queensland coal assets. We have seen it with the recent announcement from Coronado Global Resources, whose board has approved the Curragh North underground metallurgical coal project. In fact, we have seen it from the international survey of the Fraser Institute.

Just to recap for those opposite—who certainly were not listening and have peddled some interesting stories just now—in May the Fraser Institute released its annual survey of mining companies, including its influential investment attractiveness index. Of all the major producers of metallurgical coal, Queensland is now ranked the most attractive destination for investment, and our overall state ranking improved from 18 to 13—a five-year high. That is awesome.

I dismiss what the LNP have said because it is simply not true. There are huge opportunities for our resources industry moving forward and those opposite need to stop trying to talk it down simply for their own benefit. What the opposition refuse to make clear is their position on our progressive coal royalties. I ask them: what is their position? If they do not support them, we know what they will do when they get elected—they will cut, sack and sell. Under the LNP's secret plans there will be no CopperString 2032, no hospital projects in Moranbah and no new infrastructure. We have a plan and that is for more jobs and better services right across Queensland—not cuts.

Regarding Glenden, I cannot believe the member for Burdekin has taken any credit for this. He has never picked up the phone to talk to me about it. This is a complex issue that I and the government have engaged on for some time. We have been working with the Isaac Regional Council, QCoal and Glencore about the future of this town and the facilities and accommodation available. For the opposition to say that no work has been done examining the future of Glenden is simply not true. I will have more to say on this later, but as the Premier said at the Bush Summit in Rocky, we are supporting the Isaac Regional Council and the future of Glenden with legislation. We know how important the resources industry is to our regions, but the industry must coexist with stakeholders like the agricultural industry.

That is why we are working with the GasFields Commission when it comes to CSG induced subsidence. We have broadly supported all recommendations from the GasFields Commission Queensland's review into coal seam gas induced subsidence. We have listened to the community about concerns around coal seam gas induced subsidence and we are committed to ensuring our coexistence frameworks provide appropriate protections. That is why we are supporting six recommendations from the GasFields Commission Queensland's report into CSG induced subsidence and supporting the other two recommendations in principle.

The Department of Resources' lands division is another key component of my portfolio. They manage around 18,000 leases throughout Queensland—a huge number—and these include numerous leases for agriculture. Of the handful of noncompliant leases that have been raised, leases on Great Keppel Island have recently been forfeited and the Double Island lessee has been notified of the intention to refer this matter to the Land Court. What I will say is that compliance activities continue with respect to a number of other leases.

Regarding commercial river mooring opportunities, as I said during the estimates process, this is a matter for the tourism minister. I will continue to work with him moving forward. I would suggest those opposite should talk to the LNP Brisbane Lord Mayor about what the council is also doing in this space, and there will be crickets.

The 2023-24 Queensland budget is about backing all Queenslanders. We are investing in our regions. We are investing in our future when it comes to critical minerals, energy and manufacturing. The resources industry will be an essential part of our future moving forward.